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### 10. A RECORD OF PALLAS' FISHING EAGLE *HALIAEETUS LEUCORYPHUS* FROM SPITI VALLEY (H.P.)

In June, 1995 a live subadult specimen of the Pallas' fishing eagle was recovered from "Shego" at an altitude of about 3800 m in the Spiti valley, of Lahaul Spiti dist., Himachal Pradesh, India. This is the first record of the species in Spiti Valley and probably the first record in the Indian Trans-Himalayan region.

The individual was recovered by local villagers from "Shego forest" which is about 7 km from the Park headquarters, Kaza. Shego forest is a high altitude cold desert area situated on the banks of the river Spiti. Poplar, willow trees and *Hippophae* bushes are the main vegetation of the forest. The local villagers informed that the bird was chased by two crows on the bank of the river, and was running with spread wings. When the villagers captured it, it was not in a position to fly, because of a leg injury. Its right leg, specially the talon, was infected and the infection had spread all over the leg. One of

the villagers took it home and applied some medicine on the bird's leg. After 35-40 days of capture he consulted the local Veterinarian, who gave a Gentamycin injection and recommended regular draining of the pus. Unfortunately, the eagle died 6-7 hrs after the Gentamycin dose. Some researchers from WII Dehradun on tour to this area confirmed its identity. Its morphometric measurements are summarized as under:

Length of stretched wings: 154 cm  
 Length of body (Beak to tail) 92 cm

The skin is preserved and kept in the office as record.

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